SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, my name is on top of the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is on top. He is occupying the floor. You cannot.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : After that, would you please allow me to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get the chance according to the rules. Now, please sit down.

16.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to effectively implement National Malaria Eradication Programme in Orissa

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : The recurrence of Malaria in different districts of Orissa has caused a great concern to everybody in the State. The disease has spread to the tribal districts in a menacing speed.

The Malaria was under control in the State for some years when the National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) was implemented. Subsequently, it was found that the NMEP is not being implemented efficiently and there were all kinds of negligence in the implementation of the programme. Now, people of every district are suffering from Malaria and death toll in increasing every year in Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Gajapathi, Phulabani and Keonjhar districts. Cerebral Malaria is taking a heavy toll in the tribal districts.

Unless Central Government intervene in the matter and take drastic steps to control Malaria, the people of the State will continue to suffer. As such, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to control Malaria in Orissa.

(ii) Need to Strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the most remote, isolated Union Territory in the midst of Bay of Bengal directly administered by the Union Government. At present the Administration is run under Article 240 of the Constitution by appointing one Administrator who is designated as Lt. Governor. In the past there was a Pradesh Coucil. Though recommendatory, it functioned on the pattern more or less like an Assembly and five Councillors working as Ministers to aid and advise the Lt. Governor in the matter of administration of A and N Islands.

Unfortunately, when the new Panchayati Raj institutions were created under the Panchayati Raj Municipal Regulations, 1994 in line with the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution, the Regulations of Pradesh Council has been repealed. The elections of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Zilla Parishads and Municipal Councils were held and elected persons have taken over the responsibility under the Regulations. For these institutions, not a single rupee has been provided as financial assistance for the year 1996-97. The Finance Corporation which was appointed long back for this Financial recommendation has so far made no recommendation. It was expected that an interim report will be given by them but nothing has been done. It is also astonishing that the same Finance Corporation is operating from Delhi and not in the Islands. It appears that the Government is not interested to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institution to carry out its duties and responsibilities as per the Regulation.

I, therefore, wish to draw the attention of Government of India to issue immediate directions to the A and N Administration to take immediate necessary action for providing all assistance to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in A and N islands.

(iii) Need to supply of Gas from Tapti Fields for Power Generation at Pipavav in Gujarat

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Gujarat is making rapid progress in industrialisation. The pace of development in social sector is also substantial. Progress requires energy as a prerequisite. Unfortunately, Gujarat has limited local fuel resources. The Union Government has made commitments about earmarking of gas from Tapti Fields for power generation at Pipavav in Gujarat. Delay in allocating Gas for power stations in Gujarat will push the State which has been pioneer in the use of gas into a deep power crisis.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to do justice to the legitimate demand of Gujarat by honouring expeditiously the commitment already made.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar for early completion of Uttar Pradesh Koel Irrigation Project.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Three districts of Bihar i.e. Aurangabad, Palamu and Gaya will be benefited by the Uttar Koel Project in the State. In the absence of irrigation facilities, all the three districts have become terrorist affected areas. All major works on this project have been executed. Construction of main canal and the dam has been undertaken—Due to delay in the rehabilitation of the displaced persons, the work relating to construction of gate is held up.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested that additional financial assistance may be provided to the Government of Bihar to complete the Uttar Koel